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May 5, 1961

TO: [REDACTED]

FROM: THE DIRECTOR

THROUGH: AD/O

INFO: O/DCI; DD/I

1. AFTER THE CUBAN OPERATION CONSIDERABLE COMMENT CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION NOW BEING MADE IN PRESS AND IN CONGRESS. SUGGESTIONS ARE BEING AND WILL BE RAISED CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA OF US GOVERNMENT. MUCH MISINFORMATION GENERALLY REPORTED AND WHILE SOME PROPOSALS ARE FROM RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS, THERE ARE MANY DISTORTIONS OF ACTUAL SITUATION. IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE ORGANIZATION ACQUITTED ITSELF WELL IN MOST RESPECTS, ALTHOUGH I PLAN FULL REVIEW OF OPERATION AFTER REASONABLE PERIOD HAS ELAPSED TO PERMIT ALL ESSENTIAL FACTS TO BE AVAILABLE. IN THE MEANTIME PRESIDENT HAS DIRECTED GENERAL MAXWELL TAYLOR TO TAKE CLOSE LOOK AT ALL PRACTICES AND PROGRAMS IN AREA OF MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY, GUERRILLA AND ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES WHICH FALL SHORT OF OVERTIGHT WAR. HE WILL GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO LESSONS FROM RECENT EVENTS IN CUBA. IN THIS EFFORT HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, AND MYSELF. HIS REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY MAY 15.

2. WHILE IN NO WAY WISHING TO LESSEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF DEFEAT IN CUBA BOTH FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO ASSURE EVERYBODY THAT OUR PRIMARY EFFORT SHOULD BE TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE, GOOD OR BAD.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE HAVE FULLY BRIEFED APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS ON THE CUBAN OPERATION AND IN FACT HAVE MORE THAN EVER BEFORE DURING THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS KEPT THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES ADVISED ON DAILY BASIS OF VITAL INTELLIGENCE AND PROBLEMS. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO ADVISE YOU PROMPTLY OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON THAT AFFECT THE ORGANIZATION, BUT STRESS THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THAT REPORTS IN PUBLIC MEDIA ARE OFTEN MISLEADING.

END OF MESSAGE

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